

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-08 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05

NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 ITC-01 /091 W

-----211955Z 041058 /47

R 210918Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141

UNCLAS TOKYO 5835

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO WASHINGTON ROUND OF COLOR TV TALKS

REF: STATE 088115

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTING OF WASHINGTON ROUND OF COLOR TV TALKS, WHICH GREW OPTIMISTIC WITH NEWS OF MASUDA'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON TURNED SOMBER ON APRIL 20 WHEN NEWS OF DISAGREEMENT OVER TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE BECAME KNOWN. PRESS ARTICLES STATE THAT WHILE TALKS HAVE ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS PROBLEMS, BOTH SIDES STILL HOPE FOR SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO MAY SUMMIT. ONE PRESS ARTICLE CLAIMS MITI MAY RETALIATE AGAINST U.S. COMPUTER EXPORTS TO JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTING ON EVE OF WASHINGTON TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON COLOR TV'S WAS UPBEAT, SAYING THAT SINCE AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED ON QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT (SIC), ONLY REMAINING PROBLEMS WERE LEVEL OF RESTRAINT AND TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS. REPORTING GREW OPTIMISTIC WITH NEWS OF MASUDA'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, SAYING THAT AGREEMENT WOULD SOON BE REACHED WITH QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS SET AT 2.1-2.3 MILLION LEVEL.

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3. PRESS REPORTING TURNED SOMBER IN APRIL 20 EVENING AND APR 21 MORNING EDITIONS, WITH NEWS OF MAJOR DISAGREEMENT OVER TECHNICAL COVERAGE. PRESS COVERAGE IS CONFUSED ON THIS POINT, WITH SOME ARTICLES STATING PROBLEM RELATES ONLY TO INCLUSION OF SEMI-COMPLETED SETS, AND OTHER PAPERS SAYING U.S. HAS PROPOSED INCLUSION OF SUB-ASSEMBLIES AND PARTS AS WELL. THESE LATTER ARTICLES SAY THIS WILL HAVE MAJOR EFFECT ON JAPANESE PLANTS AND

EVEN SOME U.S. COMPAINES IN U.S., AS THEY DEPEND UPON IMPORTA-  
TION OF SUB-ASSEMBLIES AND PARTS FROM JAPAN.

4. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE INDUSTRY SOURCES AS SAYING NEGOTIATIONS  
APPEAR TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS PROBLEMS BUT THAT BOTH SIDES  
HPE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED PRIOR TO MAY SUMMIT IN LONDON. PRESS  
ALSO INDICATES RELATED GOJ AGENCIES WILL GO INTO HUDDLE  
FOLLWING MASUDA'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON ON APRIL 22 AND HOPE TO  
EMERGE WITH POLICY WITHIN TWO DAYS.

5. ONE PRESS REPORT IN NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN SAYS MITI HAS BEEN  
STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATION AGAINST U.S. COMPUTER EXPORTS  
TO JAPAN IN THE EVENTCOLOR TV NEGOTIATIONS ARE RUPTURED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, ETEL, JA, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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